

DECLASSIFIED

HARRIS LAWRENCE T
77 MONTEVIDEO 5784

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 25784 221123Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO CCT-31 HA-05 ISC-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-21
INR-27 L-03 NSAF-22 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-00 /066 K

EXCISE

-----124379 221146Z /14

P R 221035Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUN, PINT, BR, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES

REF: A. SAO PAULO 3153 B. PENTLEY-YOULE TELCON

DEC 16, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING PRESENT VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO, (WHICH BEGAN DEC. 14), TAVARES LAWYER GEFSON MENDONCE, "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" DIRECTOR JULIO FERREIRA DE MEZQUITA, AND INTERNATIONAL EDITOR JOSE MAYRIN HAVE BEEN COOLLY RECEIVED BY THE GOU AND INITIALLY, THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY. THEY HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF THE "GOOD NEWS" REGARDING AN EARLY RELEASE FOR TAVARES THEY CLAIM WAS PROMISED BY ITAMARATI SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA NOR, IN FACT, ANY MOVEMENT IN THE CASE.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE VISITORS BEGAN WITH AN UNSATISFACTORY INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY ALVARO ALVAREZ ON MORNING OF DEC. 15. ALVAREZ REPORTEDLY INFORMED THEM BLUNTLY THAT PRESSURES WERE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND STATED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF JOURNALISTIC "INTERVENTION", TAVARES WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED "LONG AGO". WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 25784 221123Z

ALVAREZ INDICATED HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ARRANGE FOR THE VISITORS TO SEE TAVARES, WHILE CLEARLY EXPRESSING HIS EXASPERATION WITH THE WHOLE MATTER. LATER THE SAME DAY, ALVAREZ' AIDE INFORMED THE VISITORS THAT THEY COULD SEE TAVARES ON THE EVENING OF THE 16TH.

3. ALSO ON THE 15TH THE VISITORS WERE RECEIVED BY BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR CORREA DO LABO, WHO REPORTEDLY INFORMED THEM THAT HE CONSIDERED THE CASE A "CONSULAR MATTER" AND HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS ON TAVARES' BEHALF. LABO INDICATED READINESS TO SEND THE CONSUL TO MEET WITH TAVARES PRIOR TO THE VISITORS' APPOINTMENT WITH HIM, BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMITMENT AT THAT TIME. THIS WAS, IN FACT, THE FIRST CONTACT THAT THOSE ACTING FOR TAVARES HAVE EVER HAD WITH LABO AND THEY ATTRIBUTED THE CONTACT TO THE PRESENCE OF MEZQUITA, WHO IS MEMBER OF SIP COMMITTEE ON LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION AND WHOSE FAMILY HAS

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY L. M. S. DATE 5/9
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

PAGE 1

HARRIS LAWRENCE T
77 MONTEVIDEO 5784

CONFIDENTIAL

ACCESS TO PRESIDENT GEISEL. ACCORDING TO MENDONCZ, AMBASSADOR
SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM
BRASILIA RE TAVARES CASE.

4. EVENING OF 16TH, MENDONCA, MAYRINK AND MEZQUITA MET
WITH TAVARES AT CENTRAL PRISON, ACCOMPANIED BY ALUIZIO
MACHADO, O ESTADO DE SAC PAULO CORRESPONDENT WHO HELD
PUBLIC INTERVIEW WITH TAVARES DEC. 12 AT INSTANCE OF FONMIN
ROVIRA (MONTEVIDEO 5733). THIS LATEST INTERVIEW WAS ALSO
ATTENDED BY LOCAL PRESS BUT WAS REPORTED, INCONSPICUOUSLY,
ONLY BY OPPOSITIONIST EL DIA. TAVARES REPEATED PREVIOUS
PUBLIC LINE, INDICATING HUMANE TREATMENT BY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES AND REITERATING INNOCENCE OF ESPIONAGE CHARGES.
ACCORDING TO MENDONCZ, HE ALSO MANAGED A BRIEF UNMONITORED
CONVERSATION WITH HIS BRAZILIAN VISITORS, URGING THEM
NOT TO FORGET "THE FIRST 19 DAYS" OF HIS IMPRISONMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03

MONTEV 05784 221123Z

(WHEN HE WAS ALLEGEDLY MISTREATED). MACHADO ASKED TAVARES
OPENLY -- AND THIS WAS PICKED UP IN EL DIA REPORT --
WHETHER LATTER WAS AWARE THAT SENATOR PETRONIO PORTELLA,
PRESIDENT OF BRAZILIAN CONGRESS, HAD CALLED IN URUGUAYAN
AMBASSADOR IN BRASILIA, GEN. EDUARDO ZUBIA, TO INTERCEDE
FOR HIM. IN SIMILAR MANNER, WILLINGNESS OF PORTUGUESE,
CONFIRMED BY PRESIDENT EANES, TO RECEIVE TAVARES AS POLITICAL
EXILE WAS ALSO SURFACED PUBLICLY. EL DIA PIECE CLOSED WITH
INTERVIEW OF VISITING BRAZILIANS IN WHICH MEZQUITA TOOK
OCCASION TO UNDERLINE HIS SIP CONNECTION.

031123Z 1980